

ever, I had a case once, now that you have brought up the subject, and we did not have an experienced stenographer, and one of the girls in Belair agreed to take the testimony. She got about half-way through the case and she decided that she was not doing a very good job, and she quit. And now, I forget exactly what happened in the case, but I have often thought that the fact that the testimony stopped in the middle of the case probably would have created a mistrial.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions of the sponsor, Delegate Singer?

DELEGATE SINGER: Delegate James, would you not think the resourcefulness of the State of Maryland could prevent such a happening in the General Assembly?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: I think it could easily happen that mechanical equipment could break down, especially in the last days of the session and this would be simply catastrophic. It would be, you know, we are at the mercy of the stenographers in this State. They have a pretty good system. There are not too many of them and they charge pretty well, and if a stenographer would happen to get sick, or it were late at night and you did not have another stenographer handy, I do not know what you would do. I guess you would have to simply hold up until you could get a stenographer.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koger.

DELEGATE KOGER: Delegate James, don't you think that if you have transcripts of your debates that the average delegate could plan to execute what he says perhaps with greater care?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: Well, if this is any sample here, I wonder.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman, a point of parliamentary inquiry.

THE CHAIRMAN: State the inquiry.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: I should like to ask the stenographer how you are making out.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions of the sponsor of the amendment?

If not, any delegate desire to speak in opposition to the amendment?

Delegate Gallagher?

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Just briefly, Mr. Chairman, I am impressed with Senator James' adherence to a million for defense, but not a cent for tribute.

However, I do feel that as the General Assembly of Maryland spends more and more time involving itself more and more in the affairs of the people of the State, and it is far too late to put the chicken back into the egg, that it is not really a social experiment for the social necessity to provide the people of Maryland with the proceedings and the transcript of the debates.

It seems to me that it has the benefit not only in court interpretation, but also to allow the public to know if it so desires, to allow the various political subdivisions and their officers to learn, what was said and what the responses were, and who took what positions in the debates of the General Assembly.

I feel that keeping the transcript provision will assist in what we have been trying to do, and that is to let the legislature know that the eyes and ears of the people of the state of Maryland are trained upon it, that they are expected to and undoubtedly will react in a more responsible manner, and that this visibility which we have sought throughout the entire legislative article will continue to be made available.

I do not think that in the age of the Sputnik and the age of the laser, in the age of all modern devices that have aided mankind, that a little old stenographic machine is going to be the difference in life and death between the success or failure of the General Assembly. I submit that these artificial obstacles are more in the way of light impediments than any genuine difficulty in arriving at the conclusion which we seek here. I would urge this Committee to please defeat the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Mr. Chairman, may I make an inquiry of Delegate Gallagher?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher, do you yield to a question?

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Delegate Gallagher, if this amendment fails, will you